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TAB - A Interim Novel Weapons Policy - Guidance for High-Level Statements

1. a. Statements and releases on novel weapons should be held to a minimum. Before anything is released, these questions should be answered:

- (1) Does the American Congress or public need this information?
- (2) Will this information really help deter the Kremlin?
- (3) Will this information strengthen or weaken the morale of the free world?
- (4) Are these weapons important enough, and is their completion date near enough, to justify a statement?

b. High-level statements, as contrasted with media play, have a global audience. The content must therefore either represent a compromise between the requirements of different audience groups, or be chosen with the most critical audience group in mind. The primary audience group is the strategically important, potentially neutralist group: West Germany, France, the Middle East, Italy and/ Additionally, such statements must be based upon the policies indicated in the President's reduction of armaments speech.

c. Taking the above factors into consideration, the following constitutes interim basic guidance:

- (1) Emphasize the peaceful purposes of novel inventions, and the uses to which we are putting them.
- (2) Novel weapons are being developed for defensive purposes; we continue actively to seek ways of reducing armaments and controlling armament production.
- (3) Novel weapons control and conventional weapons control must go hand in hand.
- (4) De-emphasize the mass effect of novel weapons and emphasize developments in the characteristics of the weapons permitting greater target selectivity.

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- (5) We are for control of novel weapons and against city-bombing in principle, but do not make statements which (a) amount to a commitment not to use strategic A-bombing, or which (b) might give Soviet leaders assurance of immunity from strategic attack.
- (6) Shift the moral blame to the Soviet leadership for the *need of* continued uncontrolled development of strategic novel weapons.
- (7) Emphasize that manpower inequalities between the free-world and Soviet blocs will be greatly minimized by the development of tactical novel weapons; and that the free-world can, when these weapons become available, oppose with novel weapons Communist peripheral (cold war) applications of strength without the need of bringing on general war.

Note: The above guidance is not to be construed as absolving officials of their responsibility for obtaining security clearance for statements prepared in conformity thereto.

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